

## Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /128 W

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R 301125Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9597

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 4019

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NP, IN

SUBJECT: INDO-NEPALESE RELATIONS; NO NEED FOR REVIEW

1. SATURDAY'S NEWSPAPERS IN KATHMANDU CARRIED REPORT OF PRESS CONFERENCE CALLED BY FOREIGN SECRETARY KHATRI SEPTEMBER 27. SEMI-OFFICIAL RISING NEPAL HEADLINED ITS STORY "NO NEED TO REVIEW NEPAL INDIA TIES." ACCORDING TO ITS REPORT KHATRI STATED GON SAW NO NEED TO REVIEW NEPAL INDIA RELATIONS, NEPAL NOT ONLY CONTINUED TO "CHERISH FEELING OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH INDIA BUT ALSO HOPED TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE EXISTING FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES." KHATRI REPORTEDLY ALSO STATED THAT HMG HAD NO KNOWLEDGE WHATSOEVER OF ANY IMPENDING CHANGE IN INDIA'S POLICY TOWARDS NEPAL. KHATRI NOTED INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S UNGA SPEECH CHARACTERIZING INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH NEPAL, AFGHANISTAN AND BHUTAN AS GOVERNED BY SPIRIT OF "MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND A DESIRE TO COOPERATE FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT." KHATRI CLAIMED SPEECH SHOWED THAT THE INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WAS SATISFIED WITH THE STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS AND THE QUESTION OF REVIEW THEREFORE DID NOT ARISE.

2. COMMENT: GON IS EVIDENTLY CONCERNED BY SPATE OF REPORTS IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INDIAN AND NEPALESE PRESS TO EFFECT THAT AMBASSADOR RASGOTRA'S

CURRENT VISIT TO NEW DELHI IS FOR PURPOSE OF REVIEWING INDO-NEPALESE RELATIONS IN AFTERMATH OF NEPALESE DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST INDIA'S SIKKIM POLICY. IT SEEMS HIGHLY LIKELY THAT KHATRI'S PRESS CONFERENCE WAS PALACE INSPIRED AND THAT IT IS GON EFFORT TO PULL BACK FROM POSITION OF CONFRONTATION WITH GOI. COOLER HEADS IN GON PRESUMABLY WANT TO AVOID SITUATION IN WHICH GOI MIGHT TAKE RETALIATORY STEPS AGAINST NEPAL. AS INDEPENDENT MOTHERLAND SAID IN ITS SEPTEMBER 30 EDITORIAL IT IS TIME FOR INDIA AND NEPAL TO CALL A HALT TO "WORDY DUEL" BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. MOTHERLAND POINTS OUT WHAT MANY GON OFFICIALS AND POLITICIANS HAVE THEMSELVES CONCLUDED, THAT NEPAL HAS MORE TO LOSE IN THE EVENT OF PROLONGED STRAINED RELATIONS THAN INDIA. WE ANTICIPATE THAT GON WILL IN NEAR FUTURE AT LEAST KEEP REFERENCES TO SIKKIM TO MINIMUM AND AVOID STATEMENTS WHICH COULD BE MISCONSTRUED IN NEW DELHI.

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## Message Attributes

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